

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Room 415, State Capitol Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair
Sen. Brent Goodfellow
Sen. David Hinkins
Rep. Roger Barrus
Rep. Jack Draxler
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Christine Watkins
Rep. Bill Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rep. Jim Gowans
Rep. Mike Noel

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2010. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hinkins absent for the vote.

Department of Agriculture and Food: Analyst Presentation

The Analyst discussed the Department of Agriculture and Food, Budget Brief. The Department is responsible for the administration of Utah's agricultural laws, which mandate a wide variety of activities. The Utah State Fair Corporation has been included as a line item since FY 2003.

During the 2009 General Session, the Legislature changed the nature of the Rangeland Improvement Fund and the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund from Special Revenue Fund to General Fund Restricted account. The Department now has to have the money appropriated from the new account before they can spend it. The Analyst recommended the Legislature provide a supplemental appropriation of \$2.7 million from the Rangeland Improvement Fund and \$600,000 from the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund to the Department, in order to make the funding available for staff to complete the projects started before the change in statute. The Analyst indicated that the documents detailing the project analyses show how the funds will be spent.

The Analyst touched upon non-lapsing Intent Language which proposes how funds should be spent if available at the end of the current year.

Agency Presentation

Kyle Stephens, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, was assisted by

Kathleen Clark, also Deputy Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Stephens invited the Analyst to introduce the Department's proposal for fee changes in the Fees Issue Brief. In addition, Deputy Commissioner Stephens informed the committee that the Department is recommending fees for the Regulatory Services Division remain at the current levels.

Steven Ogilvie, Director, Administrative Services, distributed "Department of Agriculture and Food Proposed 5% Budget Reductions, FY 2011" which is a recommendation of how the 5% budget reduction would take place.

Lorin Moench, Chairman of the Board, Utah State Fair, noted the Fair is progressing well and they are in the process of making a strategic plan for the future. Judy Duncombe, Acting Executive Director, discussed a handout "Utah State Fairpark, Home of the Utah State Fair" noting the growth of the Fair and the opportunity it gives to expose children to a hands-on agricultural experience. A discussion followed.

Gordon Yonkers, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, along with Bill Rigby, Supervisor, Davis Conservation District Board, discussed a handout "Conservation District Support" which shows how the funding is used through FY 2010 and FY 2011. A brochure entitled "Utah's Conservation Districts" details what a conservation district is and what they do.

Terry Menlove, Director, Division of Animal Industry, with Richard Clark, Director, Regulatory Service Division, introduced a power point presentation detailing the purpose and need for the Animal Industry and Regulatory Service Divisions to ensure the public in Utah receive a safe, wholesome food product which, as guardian of the Utah food supply, is the mission of the Department of Agriculture

Kathleen Clarke, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food and Acting Director of the Division of Conservation Resource Management, commended committee members for their support in responding to the Milford Flat Fire and noted how successful the effort was. She introduced a presentation on current and active programs, Healthy Rangelands Offer Multiple Benefits.

Bill Hopkin, Director, Grazing and Improvement Program, and Kathleen Clarke, briefed the members of the committee on a visionary effort that gets to the point of looking at large scale landscapes for improving grazing rather than doing a piece-meal effort. Director Hopkin focused on well managed grazing and summarized the benefits of increasing managed grazing lands. Deputy Commissioner Clarke and Director Hopkin responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Goodfellow, Rep. Watkins, and Sen. Stowell being absent for the vote.

Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
February 3, 2010
Page 3

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